

Nebraska

Transfer Initiative



November 2, 1995

...*Nebraska's colleges and universities should collaborate in the development of a statewide agreement and policy on (a) the transfer of college-level credit, and (b) the transfer of the Associate of Arts degree as fulfilling both the general education requirements of the receiving institution, and the requirements for entrance to the junior class.*

Challenges and Opportunities for Nebraska Higher Education ... A Call To Action, Final Report to the LB 247 Postsecondary Education Study Committee, November 1990.

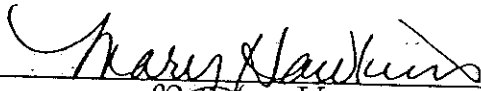
It is appropriate that, five years after this report was presented, twenty-five public and private colleges and universities in the State of Nebraska are joining together on the second day of November, 1995, to sign the Nebraska Transfer Initiative.




Nebraska Transfer Initiative

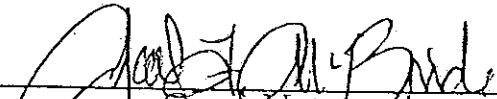
The Nebraska Transfer Initiative is a cooperative effort by Nebraska's public and private higher education institutions to facilitate the transfer of students who have earned an Associate of Arts degree into baccalaureate-level programs. Unique institutional requirements are noted on the individual signatory documents.

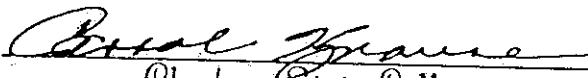
The following representatives of the signatory institutions are declaring their participation in the Nebraska Transfer Initiative on the second day of November, 1995:

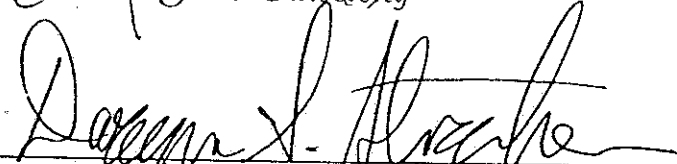

Bellevue University



Doane College


Central Community College Area

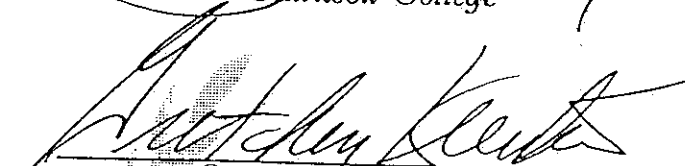

Grace University

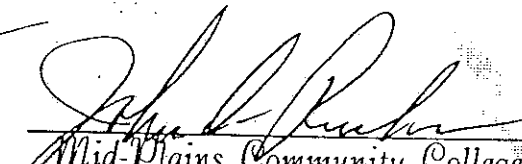

Chadron State College



Hastings College


Clarkson College


Metropolitan Community College Area


College of Saint Mary


Mid-Plains Community College Area


Concordia College


Midland Lutheran College


Dana College


Nebraska Christian College

Yvonne Bushfield
Nebraska Indian Community College

Larry Ray
Union College

Michelle
Nebraska Methodist College of Nursing
& Allied Health

Donal J. Burns
University of Nebraska

Jack Brown
Nebraska Wesleyan University

Carol Krause
Wayne State College

James Updegraff
Northeast Community College Area

John Ham
Western Community College Area

Robert L. Brown
Peru State College

Harrell E. Baker
York College

John J. Hinch
Southeast Community College Area



The Nebraska Transfer Initiative

The General Education Core Curriculum

I. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this initiative is to improve access and opportunities for students who wish to pursue baccalaureate degrees after completing Associate of Arts degrees at community colleges. The common core curriculum in general education for the Associate of Arts, Academic Transfer degree has been developed and adopted by the six Nebraska Community College Areas. The core curriculum is composed of courses in the arts and sciences which partially fulfill the Associate of Arts degree requirements (Attachment 1). The remainder of credit hours required for the degree should be selected by the student in consultation with the receiving institution.

The Nebraska common core curriculum in general education, while not duplicating any single institution's requirements, closely mirrors the typical lower-division general education requirements of the Nebraska baccalaureate degree-granting institutions, parallels the national profile of general education curricula prepared by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and is similar to the transfer and articulation agreements of such other states as Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, and Virginia.

The common core has been designed to provide a smooth transition with a minimum loss of time and credit when it is accepted by baccalaureate degree-granting institutions as the basis of a statewide transfer agreement. Associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions are equal partners in providing the first two years of baccalaureate degree programs in Nebraska. While each institution is ultimately responsible for the quality of the programs it provides, both associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions continue to work together to assure that their lower-division general education courses are comparable in scope, quality, and intellectual rigor.

II. Background

During the 1993-94 academic year, the Council of Instructional Officers of the Community Colleges developed a common curricular core in the Associate of Arts, Academic Transfer degree. Their intention was to ensure consistency, continuity, and quality in the academic transfer program. The core curriculum is based on:

- 1) A philosophical rationale for the common curriculum;
- 2) General education categories for the common core curriculum; and
- 3) Credit hour requirements for each category.

Prior to this articulation initiative, there were individual agreements between institutions which varied widely and did not provide certainty to students that the classes would transfer. The disadvantage of this kind of arrangement is that it is based on the assumption that students know either what baccalaureate institution they intend to transfer to or what baccalaureate major they wish to pursue, or both. In fact, a large number of students enter community colleges without clear educational or career goals, and others find their goals unrealistic. The common core curriculum provides a good way for students, particularly undecided students, to begin their undergraduate experience.

The Council of Instructional Officers of the Community Colleges presented a draft of the common core curriculum in general education to the deans of the Nebraska colleges and universities at the Fall 1994 Deans' Meeting. The deans discussed and solidified a transferable common core of general education classes for the benefit of students in Nebraska. Altogether, representatives of 30 colleges and universities worked together on this project during the 1994-95 academic year.

Surveys were used to identify the common core curriculum and were distributed to all public and private colleges in the state. The results were shared with all deans and discussed extensively during the fall and spring meetings. Several assumptions guided the deans in their efforts:

- 1) *Articulation is a voluntary process to facilitate educational progress for students.*
- 2) *Trust, respect, and continued participation of all institutions are integral parts of the articulation process.*
- 3) *Individuals who are pursuing further education should be treated as mature adult learners.*
- 4) *Articulation allows flexibility, choice, and diversity.*
- 5) *Each educational institution's mission, goals, and standards for admission, progression, and graduation are preserved.*
- 6) *Each institution has met the accreditation standards of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is recognized as an equal partner in the transfer initiative.*
- 7) *While each degree-granting institution has developed its own general education program as part of its degree requirements, most general education objectives are similar from one institution to another.*

During the summer of 1995, a 34 semester-hour core was established as the basis for the common core of general education by the participating institutions. The deans hope to add courses to the common core in the future. Other institutions have indicated an intent to participate and will be added when they sign the articulation agreement.

III. Procedures/Structure

Any student who has successfully completed courses — the equivalent of grade "C" or above — identified in the articulated associated of arts general education core curriculum and who is admitted in transfer to a signatory institution:

- will be granted standing comparable to current students who have completed the same number of equivalent credit courses toward an associate/baccalaureate-level degree, and
- will be able to progress toward associate/baccalaureate degree completion at a rate comparable to that of students who entered the associate/baccalaureate institution as first-time freshmen.

To assure students of comparable treatment, signatory institutions agree to the following standards and procedures:

- Signatory institutions will accept the common core of general education for direct application to their degree or major requirements;
- Signatory institutions may require admitted transfer students to complete institution-wide general education requirements not included in the transferable core.
- Signatory institutions will grant equivalent general education credit for satisfactorily completed courses identified in the general education core to students admitted in transfer who began but did not complete the Associate of Arts Degree at an accredited signatory institution.

The official signed agreement will be recorded in the appropriate sector representative offices and in the respective institutions.

IV. Future Efforts

Chancellors, presidents, and chief academic officers of associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions should provide leadership in developing and implementing state policies on transfer and articulation and in resolving issues of mutual concern. To this end, the Nebraska deans will regularly assess the status of policies on statewide transfer and articulation to resolve any issues that arise.

Program faculties from both associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions should take primary responsibility for developing and maintaining course and program articulation agreements and for promoting compatibility between associate and baccalaureate curricula.

Associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions should work together to expand opportunities for students to complete baccalaureate degrees. Through formal partnerships, associate and baccalaureate institutions should jointly encourage baccalaureate degree completion and provide information on the transfer process, guidance in program and course selection, and orientation to the academic environment to prospective transfer students. Dual admission, "2 + 2," and similar articulation and transfer agreements should be developed to facilitate the transfer of students.

Colleges and universities should assure that transfer students have the same opportunities as other students to participate in the social, cultural, and academic support services necessary for their integration into the campus community.

It has been recommended that a statewide system for monitoring the academic progress of cohorts of students who transfer between institutions would facilitate cooperation and transfer opportunities among Nebraska higher education institutions. This information could serve as the basis for the regular review and improvement of the undergraduate curricula, support services, and articulation and transfer agreements of associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

*Agreement to Accept the Common Core of General Education Courses
in the
Associate of Arts, Academic Transfer Degree*

Associate of Arts Curriculum

<i>Core Areas</i>	<i>Semester Hours</i>
<i>English Composition (Exposition, Literature-based, Rhetoric)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Oral Communication (Interpersonal, Public Speaking)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Fine/Performing Arts (Music, Art (visual), Theater, Dance, Film)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>History (U.S. History, Western Civilization, Non-Western History)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Race/Ethnicity/Gender</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Religious Studies)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Economics/Political Science</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Social/Behavioral Science (Sociology, Psychology, Geography)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Science (including one lab course — Physical Science, Biological Science)</i>	<i>7.0</i>
<i>Mathematics (must be at college-level or above)</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Credits to Fulfill Associate Degree Requirements (as agreed upon by receiving institution)</i>	<i>26.0 - 30.0</i>
<i>Total Credits for Associate of Arts</i>	<i>60.0 - 64.0</i>

Signatory Institutions

Bellevue University
1000 Galvin Road South
Bellevue, NE 68005

Central Community College Area
P.O. Box 4903
Grand Island, NE 68802-4903

Chadron State College
10th & Main Streets
Chadron, NE 69337

Clarkson College
101 South 42nd Street
Omaha, NE 68131

College of Saint Mary
1901 South 72nd Street
Omaha, NE 68124

Concordia College
800 North Columbia Avenue
Seward, NE 68434

Dana College
Blair, NE 68008

Doane College
1014 Boswell
Crete, NE 68333

Grace University
1515 South 10th Street
Omaha, NE 68108

Hastings College
P.O. Box 269
Hastings, NE 68902-0269

Metropolitan Community College Area
P.O. Box 3777
Omaha, NE 68103-0777

Mid-Plains Community College Area
416 North Jeffers
North Platte, NE 69101

Midland Lutheran College
900 North Clarkson
Fremont, NE 68025

Nebraska Christian College
1800 Syracuse
Norfolk, NE 68701-2458

Nebraska Indian Community College
P.O. Box 752
Winnebago, NE 68071

Nebraska Methodist College
of Nursing & Allied Health
8501 West Dodge Road
Omaha, NE 68114

Signatory Institutions Continued

*Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504*

*Northeast Community College Area
P.O. Box 469
Norfolk, NE 68702*

*Peru State College
Peru, NE 68421*

*Southeast Community College Area
8800 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68520*

*Union College
3800 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68506*

*University of Nebraska
3835 Holdrege
Lincoln, NE 68583*

*Wayne State College
Wayne, NE 68787*

*Western Community College Area
1601 E. 27th Street, NE
Scottsbluff, NE 69361*

*York College
9th & Kiplinger
York, NE 68467*

NEBRASKA TRANSFER INITIATIVE

COURSE SYLLABUS DEVELOPMENT

SCOPE:

The scope of the project was to provide a smooth articulation means for students who were planning to transfer from a community college to a four-year institute. This would form a seamless transfer and guide for students to follow. It would also allow for the transferability between community colleges and the ability to continue their education to complete the Associate of Arts Degree. To make this happen required the development of syllabi for each core area of the agreement.

PROCESS:

The project has required three different steps in the process; step one – the development of a common course syllabus, step two – a common course prefix, step three – a group to work on the common syllabi for each course and core area.

Step 1: The Instructional Officers of the community colleges worked together and developed a common syllabi format to be used. This format is displayed on the following pages.

Step 2: The Instructional Officers needed to agree on a listing of common alpha prefixes for these courses and which hopefully could be implemented by each community college into their whole catalog and course listings. This task was accomplished by reviewing what each institution was using and also looked a general alpha used by the university system. The listing developed is providing on the following pages.

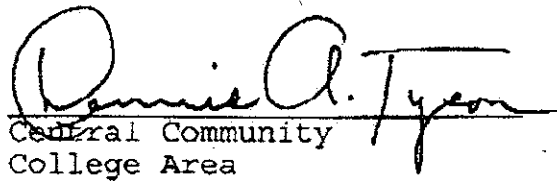
Step 3: For each of the core areas a separate group of faculty were formed on a statewide basis to complete a syllabus for a particular course. Over the past two years these groups have meet and put together syllabi that will be used by the community colleges across Nebraska. These will be incorporated into each community college catalog and course offerings. It is our intent that on a rotational basis these syllabi will be reviewed and updated every three years to be more current with technology and curriculum changes. The original copies of each syllabi created will be kept on file at the Nebraska Community College Association office located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

ARTICULATION PROCESS:

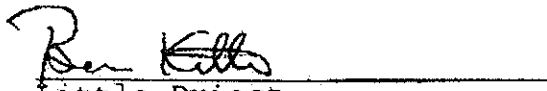
Each four-year institute, which signed the Nebraska Initiative, will be provided copies of the syllabi completed so that they may incorporate them into their articulation materials from the respective Nebraska Community Colleges. Updated or syllabi changes will be provided to each institution on an ongoing basis to the designated representative of that institution.

Nebraska Transfer Initiative
Courses Articulated by the
Nebraska Community Colleges

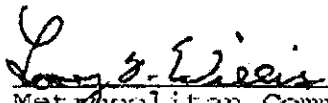

Nebraska Community College Association


Central Community
College Area

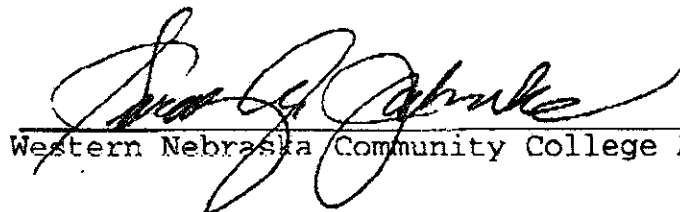

Mid-Plains
Community College Area


Little Priest
Community College


Northeast Community
College Area


Metropolitan Community
College Area


Southeast Community
College Area


Western Nebraska Community College Area

4/3/98

Date